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SOURCE Sawt at-Turkistan

INFORMATION ON ATOMIC CENTERS IN SINCHIANG

7 The July-August issue of Sawt at-Turkistan (The Voice of Turkestan), an Arabic language bimonthly periodical published in Cairo by Soviet Moslem (Turkestan) political refugees carried the following story: 7

Strategically important and mineral-rich Eastern Turkestan [Sinkiang] was under Soviet influence from 17 December 1933 until 1943. Later, in 1949, when the Soviets returned to Eastern Turkestan and occupied important position along the Indian, Pakistan, and Afghanistan frontiers, they directed their attention to the Kuldja District [I-ning Hsien], which is very rich in such important minerals as iron ore and coal. The Kuldja district is near the mountainous Altai region which, in turn, is rich in uranium and wolfram. Both areas are ideally located out of range of enemy bombers, and, at the same time, close to the USSR. The Soviet Union exploited these advantages by building an atomic city in the area.

In November 1950, it was rumored in Urumchi, capital of Eastern Turkestan, and later revealed by one of the escaped officers from Turkestan, that Bruno Pontecorvo, the British atomic scientist had arrived in Urumchi on his way to the atomic plant at Kulджа. This information was reported by the various news agencies at that time.

Sawt at-Turkistan recently received a letter from Isa Yusuf Aliptakin, former secretary general of the Eastern Turkestan government and now a resident of Kashmir, in which he stated that the Soviets have built a new atomic city in the middle of the Takla Makan Desert in Khotan District /Ho-tien Hsien/, and that they named it Tūnchi Liq Shahrī /approximation from Arabic., meaning the City of Peace/ (see the appended map.) From this it is evident that the Soviets have actually built two atomic cities, one in the Kuldjā District and one in the Takla Makan Desert.

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The following is another report written by Yu Tsai-shen, a Chinese who participated in the construction work at the Takla Makan atomic city. It throws considerable light on Communist activities in this field, despite the secrecy and great caution with which the Soviets are known to surround such projects. This report stated:

"On 1 February 1950, the Communists moved us to the central region south-east of Aksu, a barren area in the middle of the Takla Makan Desert, about 250 kilometers from the city of Aksu, and located on the mouth of the Kashgar River. When we arrived there we found more than 50,000 workers brought from all the districts to work in that area. We, however, were less than 2,000 in number. We learned afterward that that area used to be the meeting place for caravans crossing that desert. Then we began building two cities, an inner city around which we erected a strong wall of reinforced concrete, and an outer city similar in style to the dwellings and buildings of the local area, and most of which was constructed of wood with ample precautions against fires; it was named Tinchli Liq Shahri.

"After construction was completed on buildings in the inner city, the Soviets began pouring in on it by the hundreds -- advisers and others -- until their number reached into the thousands. From that time on we were forbidden to enter the inner city, and our work was centered on the building of a road network from the city of Aksu to the Khotan District, and a large airport south of Tinchli Liq Shahri.

"After the airport was built, huge quantities of construction equipment and many machines of unknown types as well as large numbers of Soviets began landing in the city. After having worked on the course of the Khotan River, the Soviets built a large electric power station. In a brief period, this barren area of sandy desert was transformed into a most beautiful modern city.

"At first we were ignorant of the secret behind building this city, but we learned afterward that it was built especially for the manufacture of atomic bombs.

"Detection of this city from the air is impossible. It looks like any other part of the desert. Its buildings, each at a distance from the other, are built on a circular pattern with the roofs painted to blend with the color of the surrounding sands. This was one of the clues which led us to know the secret behind the building of this city.

"When the Chinese Army entered Tibet, they began looking for interpreters. Since I was fluent in that country's language, I was hired as an interpreter. This opportunity gave me a chance to escape from the Communist hell to the free world."

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